Dr. Hockett spoke at the Tobacco Chemists' Research Conference and also was interviewed for the NBC radio program "Monitor."

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Radio Reports, Inc., December 12, 1959

December 1: Hockett Discusses Smoking and Lung Cancer

Monitor, at 1:40 PM over WRCA (N.Y.) and NBC Network:

ANNOUNCER: "Monitor is presenting a special series of reports on cancer, and the countless controversies which arise whenever open discussion of this disease is conducted.

"For the next report in this series, here is our Monitor reporter."

MCGRAW: "This is Walter McGraw with another chapter in the Monitor report on controversies current in the field of cancer research.

"In our last chapter, we heard why the American Public Health Association recently passed a resolution urging a campaign to prevent cigarette smoking because it was felt that it was a major factor in causing lung cancer.

"For the other side of this argument, we talked to Doctor Robert C. Hockett, associate scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

"We asked him if he agreed that cigarette smoking did cause lung cancer, and he told us:"

HOCKETT: "The evidence on this particular point is rather confused. We know the diagnosis has improved as consciousness of this disease has increased. Therefore, the degree to which it has actually increased to incidence perhaps isn't altogether known. But some of these studies did suggest that there was a statistical association between the use of tobacco and the frequency of this disease, lung cancer. This, of course, then raised the question, then, whether this reflects a causal relationship, whether the use of tobacco is really responsible for the disease, either directly or indirectly, or whether the association is accidental or incidental or meaningless."

MCGRAW: "And what is the position held by the Tobacco Industry Research Committee?"

HOCKETT: "Well, of course, I believe the committee feels that no causal relationship can ever be demonstrated merely by statistics. Therefore, the people who set up the committee felt that a program of experimental and clinical research would be necessary to find out whether these statistical relationships really have any meaning."

MCGRAW: "And have you come up with any answers yet?"

HOCKETT: "Well, we've made a great many efforts to get farther into this problem. For one thing, a number of studies have been sponsored in which animals are induced to inhale tobacco smoke to see what inhalation would do to their lungs, and none of these studies have ever produced a lung cancer in the lungs of an experimental animal. You've probably read of other kinds of experiments where smoke condensates were painted on the skins of animals. We attach much less importance to this kind of study because this is not the tissue in which we are interested, and because, of course, there are great differences among various species of animals and the way they respond to substances that are painted on the skin."

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/jmcm0000

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